



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2004 at 5.30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Mrs Caroline Roberts (Independent Member) - Chair

Ms Jill Bellingham (Independent Member)

Councillor Coley

Councillor Draycott

Councillor O'Brien

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they might have in the business to be discussed, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No such declarations were made at this time.

9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2004, as entered in the Minute Book on pages 1-3, inclusive, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be received, taken as read, and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the following :

a) Standards Board Conference

Caroline Roberts reported that she had attended the recent Standards Board Conference, and had found the speeches both useful and informative.

She undertook to bring a report back to the November 2004 meeting.

b) Press Release

Members enquired about their request for a press release to be prepared on the work of the Standards Committee.

They were assured that this had been prepared, and would be processed by the Communications Unit.

10. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Director of Resources, Access, and Diversity submitted a report concerning the Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements.

The report explained that an annual review of the Corporate Code of Governance had been carried out for 2003/2004, and the outcome had been summarised in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED :

that the Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements, including the Annual Report for 2003/2004, be noted.

11. POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report which sought comments on unresolved issues about the Political Conventions.

Members were circulated with the Minutes of the Procedures Working Party held on 27 September 2004, which had made the following comments :-

a) Respect and Courtesy between Councillors and Officers:

that the Protocols relating to Member conduct at meetings be not formally adopted as Conventions, but be implemented as guidance.

b) Development Control Decisions:

that the procedure as reported be recommended to Council.

c) Staff Lobbying Councillors:

that the existing Convention be retained for the time being.

d) Property Discussions and Negotiations:

that the Protocol reported be adopted as guidance.

- e) Non-Ward Member Involvement in Planning Applications:

that Officers look into various interest issues relating to non-Ward Councillors representing applicants outside their Ward, and report back on whether this should take the form of guidance or a Convention.

RESOLVED :

that these suggestions be noted and supported by the Standards Committee.

12. ODPM CONSULTATION: 1) DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 2) A REVIEW OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES AND PAY OF POLITICAL ASSISTANTS

The Town Clerk submitted a report which sought views on two consultation documents produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

These were :

- a) Draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees
- b) A Review of Restrictions on the Political Activities of Local Authority Employees and Pay of Political Assistants

Comments had been sought by 19 November 2004, and copies of the full consultation papers were attached to the report.

RESOLVED :

- 1) that comments on the consultation document be included in the Council's submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; and
- 2) that Members of the Standards Committee seek agreement to their attendance at the meeting of the Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee on 21 October 2004, when the consultation documents would receive consideration.

13. COMPLAINTS AGAINST ELECTED MEMBERS

The Town Clerk briefed Members on the current number and nature of complaints made against Elected Members.

RESOLVED ;

that the information be noted.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.51 .pm.

